

HB 1102 – Extending Prosecution Fellowships from 12 to 18 Months**Rep Dylan Roberts and Rep Cole Wist**

- The prosecution fellowship program was established with strong bi-partisan support in 2014 pursuant to SB 174 as sponsored by Senators Rollie Heath and Michael Johnston in the senate and Representatives Mike McLachlan and Dan Pabon in the house.
- The fellowship program currently places six graduates from the state's two law schools (three from each school) into a one year full time prosecution fellowship in one of twelve of the twenty-two District Attorneys offices in the state defined under the program as rural offices.
- The intent was three-fold. First, to aid the rural jurisdictions in recruiting, training and retaining new prosecutors and in handling very high caseloads with limited resources. Second, to provide a unique opportunity for recent graduates seeking a career in prosecution to experience a rural DA's office and a rural part of the state that he or she might not otherwise consider. Third, to foster a stronger relationship with our law schools and to assist them in the placing of recent graduates in full time jobs.
- All fellows undergo a one week trial advocacy/prosecution course put on by CDAC the week before they begin their assignments in late August each year. They are paid a salary equivalent to the starting salary of the office in which they are placed.
- The program is in its third year.
 - From the first year of the program, there were 7 fellows as one had to be substituted for as a result of not passing the bar exam. All 6 fellows are working as full time prosecutors in rural offices. The one who did not pass the bar exam subsequently passed and is also a prosecutor now.
 - From the second year, all 6 fellows are working as full time prosecutors in rural offices.
- **HB 1102 will extend the fellowships from 12 months to 18 months.**
 - This provides for more job stability for a young graduate willing to move into a rural part of the state as a prosecutor.
 - Allows the fellow to get 6 more months of full time job experience which will likely result in giving the fellow an opportunity to handle felony cases before the fellowship is over.
 - Provides more continuity in the rural offices for the local DA.
 - Allows more time for the local DA to show county commissioners the value of the new prosecutor and to then urge more funding to retain the fellow when the program ends.
 - Allows the fellow to build a strong record of experience in the event he or she wants to seek a new opportunity in another office or another part of the state.